

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank for storing a part of a beer yeast slurry discharged from fermentation tanks where beer is fermented, and then returning ~~the~~ said part of the beer yeast slurry to the fermentation tanks for reuse, comprising a tank body having a substantially cylindrical shape with a bottom portion having an inverted cone shape, a jacket disposed on a periphery of the tank body within which a cooling medium is circulated so as to cool the beer yeast slurry, and a stirring impeller made up of vertically oriented surfaces with no main stirring surface that is slanted from vertical, said stirring impeller having a shape and size ~~varied in a vertical orientation, which variation is~~ configured to achieve vertical flow of the beer yeast slurry, and positioned within the tank body of the ~~stirred~~ stirring tank, and having lower paddle blades each including a lower side with a slanting surface to match the inverted cone shape of the bottom portion of the tank body, said stirring impeller being so constructed that [[a]] the maximum diameter of a rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 60-90% of the inner diameter of the ~~stirred~~ stirring tank, and the height of the rotation body is 70% or more of [[a]] he depth of the ~~part of~~ beer yeast slurry stored in the ~~stirred~~ stirring tank.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank according to claim 1, wherein the maximum diameter of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 70-90% of the inner diameter of the ~~stirred~~ stirring tank.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ tank according to claim 1, wherein the height of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 90-120% of the depth of

the beer yeast slurry.

4.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank according to claim 2, wherein the height of the rotation body defined by the rotation of the stirring impeller is 90-120% of the depth of the beer yeast slurry.

10.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank according to claim 1, wherein the stirring impeller has no hole or opening.

17.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank according to claim 1, wherein the stirring impeller includes a rotational shaft, ~~a first paddle blade~~, and upper paddle blades a ~~second paddle blade~~, wherein the ~~first paddle blade~~ and lower paddle blades are affixed to the rotational shaft and extend from the rotational shaft in opposite directions from each other, wherein the second paddle blade upper paddle blades are affixed to the rotational shaft and extend from the rotational shaft in opposite directions from each other, and wherein the lower paddle blades extend from ~~first paddle blade~~ is affixed to the rotational shaft at an angle angles offset from the upper paddle blades ~~second paddle blade~~.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~stirred~~ stirring tank according to claim ~~[[21]]~~ 20, wherein ~~a portion of the first paddle blade~~ portions of the upper paddle blades and ~~a portion of the second paddle blade~~ portions of the lower paddle blades overlap each other in the ~~horizontal~~ elevation.

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23.-31. (Canceled)